

Smuggling of high speed diesel

650. SHRIAMAR SINGH:

SHRIABUASIMAZMI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that huge quantity of high speed diesel is being smuggled into India from the coasts of Gujarat and Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof and how much revenue has been lost as a result thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken in this regard and what is the number of persons arrested in those cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) As informed by Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue, cases have been booked of smuggling of HSD into India from the coasts of Gujarat and Maharashtra. The details are as follows:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	No. of cases	Revenue involved
2003-04	2	2.42
2004-05	5	316.00
2005-06 (Upto Oct' 06)	4	35.74

(c) Action has been taken by issuing Show Cause Notices for demand of duty, confiscation of good and imposition of fine and penalty. 07 persons were arrested in the year 2004-05 and 11 persons were arrested in the year 2005-06.

Allocation of blocks under NELP-VI

†651. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BALAPTE:

SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the interest of foreign based companies is increasing in exploration of oil and gas in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.